

water coast it would be impossible for an enemy to snare defending submarines.

What the minority of the Naval Committee wants is a navy scientifically organized and adequate to the emergency of war with a first class sea power that may come at any time in the future, perhaps too soon for comfort.

For this programme the fight in Congress must begin at once—not a day is to be wasted—and in our opinion it cannot be lost if the Republicans stick to their guns and demand that the Democratic party obey the injunction of its platform that the nation be provided with a navy adequate to the new world conditions.

Reluctant National Guardsmen on the Border.

The 116 members of the National Guard of Texas who did not respond to the call of the President for service on the Mexican border are to be court-martialed under the Dick law, and punished for their disobedience. The strength of the Texas organization at its latest official inspection was 145 officers and 2,091 men. It appears that approximately 5 per cent. of the total on the rolls refused to answer the Federal summons.

No figures are given for the Arizona and New Mexico Guards, which were called out with the Texas troops, but it is said Arizona's record is not so good as that of the Lone Star State. Only seventy-five Arizona officers and men have been sworn into the United States service, but this gives no adequate idea of the number who reported, as there is nothing to indicate how many were rejected on examination. It is fair to assume that in all three States the response was about the same, and it is not likely that the Texas record of 5 per cent. of the strength failing to show up is worse than any other State would make. Illness, absence from home, and other causes will account for the non-appearance of many of these men, as it would in other similar organizations.

The disquieting thing about the Texas Guard is that its nominal strength is only one twenty-eighth of 1 per cent. of the population, and that its numbers have suffered an actual reduction in the last year, during which the opportunity for active service was constantly imminent. It would have seemed safe to predict when the situation on the border became acute that the State and its citizens would bring their Guard to the highest plane of efficiency, in preparation for eventualities, but this natural precaution was neglected, and consequently the organized military forces of the State now cut an unimpressive figure.

What Standard Shall Prevail?

It is conceded that Woodrow Wilson will be renominated for President by the Democratic party, and Theodore Roosevelt, supported by a not negligible party of adherents, is striving desperately for the Republican nomination.

Mr. Wilson was elected in 1912 on a platform specifically pledging the candidate of the convention which named him to the principle of the single term.

Mr. Roosevelt in 1904 bound himself by a public statement as solemn in its terms and exact in its meaning as the English language could make it not to seek or accept another term in the White House.

If these two should contest with each other for the highest office in the United States this fall, by what standard would we hereafter gauge the worth of political platform utterances and the value of political promises from the most conspicuous men in the country?

Just Buttons.

Outside of China, where they indicate rank, buttons are just buttons. But men who have studied the subject say that they represent modern civilization; that since their appearance in Europe in the thirteenth century they have been employed by the most enlightened people as the proper way of holding clothes together. Savages use strings or sticks and the Orient uses hooks.

In its effort to keep up with civilization the United States has produced more than \$20,000,000 worth of buttons in the last year that the census man has accounted of. Buttons are not carried over from one year to another; they either go out of style or, like pins, are lost. This means that buttons to the innumerable number of eight thousand million were made for our use in a year. Here is a greater quantity than was made in the memorable era of the industry when Birmingham button millionaires were as common as Pittsburgh steel magnates are to-day, when men and women covered their clothes with fortunes in the baubles and plunged in buttons as they did in tulip bulbs or Mississippi bubbles.

Women are now the greatest users of buttons and they have the greatest choice in material: agate, bone, celluloid, glass, horn, ivory, pearl and shell. Man, however, takes bone or horn for his coat and vest and pearl or shell for his white waistcoat. He uses fewer white buttons than formerly. But in one division of the industry he is superior. The 700,000,000 trouser buttons are all his.

American correspondent at the beginning of the war looked at the extra set of buttons on the trousers of the German soldiers and prophesied they would overrun Belgium and reach Paris. More buttons, and they might have done it.

A blow to buttons as severe as when the Mennonites, Amishites and Dunkards, no fighting men among them, took to hooks was when modern men took to belts. Sectional strife and prejudices lurked in the question. In ante-convention days of 1912, when the agricultural picture of the great Nebraska appeared, some Easterners jeered at the suspenders. Nebraska stood as a man for suspenders; like-wise Kansas, pointing to old John Brown and cheered on by WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE; also a few of the Southern States. Belt wearers were "dudes," denizens of the "effete East," laggards in civilization, traitors to the sex, fit to rank with the willow withered squire or the miserable, hooked up Tibetan.

We are in favor of buttons; they are necessary, often important. And if the census man would tell the world which political button will be favored by the majority of voters next November he might save the country money, sweat and voice.

The Save an Hour Delusion.

President MARCUS M. MARKS of the Borough of Manhattan has called a meeting at which he purposes to deliver an address on the prospect of adopting within his jurisdiction the "save an hour" plan now in effect in Germany and other countries which will not be popular with vacation seekers this season. President MARKS, whose boom for nomination for Mayor in 1917 has shown great endurance, believes that if we all set our clocks an hour ahead we should be happier, healthier and wealthier.

So far as most of us are concerned, calling 7 o'clock 8 o'clock would make little difference. Getting up one comes several hours too early as it is. The only hour that compares with it in discomfort is turning in time. One of Nature's great failures is that she made man incapable of lying ahead all the time or staying awake all the time. This incapacity produces the great tragedies of daily life, which are scarcely mitigated even in the case of that not inconsiderable fraction of the population for which a spike tailed coat answers all the needs of a wardrobe.

The scheme for cutting off an hour at the end of the day is not without possible advantages, however. It would have the effect of choking a numerous company of after dinner speakers. But this boon, heartily as it would be welcomed by thousands of weak willed prominent citizens and those who like to see their names on seating lists with prominent citizens, would not overcome the hardships inflicted on those to whom the moment for closing comes too early under present conditions.

Observation of the habits of visitors to Manhattan, and of the practices of the acclimated Manhattaners, will convince an impartial student that not lengthening daylight but extending the night is what the popular will demands. If it could be decreed that 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock in the morning should be 7 o'clock or 8 o'clock for purposes of quitting the bed, and 4 o'clock or 5 o'clock in the morning could be fixed as midnight or 1 o'clock when the unwelcome suggestion of the hour to go home was in order, there would be a tremendous body of public opinion in favor of the change. On such a question nobody would dare to be neutral. "Late to bed and late to rise" would be a platform unassailable and unassailable, and we commend it to Mr. MARKS as his slogan in primaries and the election season.

The Greatest of All Junkies?

We predict that Governor WHITMAN, who is politically in what might be described as an "interesting condition," will be the first to demand a thorough official overhauling of the facts and figures set forth in the report of the Brooklyn Young Republican Club on the expenditure of about \$700,000 of the taxpayers' money by the Panama-Pacific Exposition Commission.

Here is a splendid chance for the Governor to exercise his talents for investigation, exposure, prosecution and punishment of the guilty. The fact that the paraphernalia and commissariat and transportation of his own exalted party to San Francisco cost the State some \$25,000 will not deter a Chief Magistrate of Roman and Spartan quality from inquiring why \$2,402,200 should have been spent on a dinner to Mr. Low, and whether it is true that Mr. BRESKEY, the eminent Commis'oner on Live Stock, should have supported his valuable existence for two days at the Hotel Knickerbocker at an expenditure for meals alone of \$63.03.

We have confidence in the Governor, and here is the opportunity of a lifetime.

JOSEPHUS DANIELS evidently believes that a navy or an apology should be denatured.

Professor ALFRED NOYES will not lose any of the respect with which Americans regard him by his announced intention of going back to England "to do whatever will be of the most use and go where my services will count for the most." Bon voyage, Professor; and may the return of peace in Europe soon bring you back to the land where you have made so many friends. Not least friendly among them are those who estimate your poems discriminately and put your lectures and essays to the acid test.

The Haddonfield, N. J., Quaker who says he would rather die than defend himself against an invader might realize his preference if a European army overran Haddonfield on its way to the Quaker capital, but the military drill for schoolboys in opposition to which he expressed his gospel of non-resistance would certainly diminish rather than increase the likelihood of his ever being put to such a test, for which, even he can hardly have a racking appetite. We admire the Quaker courage in behalf of principle, but we also admire the story of the gentleman who laid aside his Quaker coat and hat and bade "the Quaker" lie there until he had finished with a lot who manifested an offensive intention to take more than a fair share of the road.

King GEORGE signs compulsion bill—Newspaper headline.

How kings and people, and all things else, have changed, in war ways and in peace ways, the days, say, of RICHARD the Lion Heart in Merry England.

BYRAN is spilling for a fight at St. Louis convention—Washington view of the present state of a great mind.

A very bad state of mind for a reporter.

General SALAZAR, ex-Huerta and Orozco General, today officially surrendered by wire to the Carranza garrison in Juarez—El Paso despatch.

There JOSE INEZ SALAZAR showed his manhood. If he had presented himself in person to the commander of the Carranza garrison General GAVINA could and probably would have shot him. A surrender by wire from a distance implies a mental reservation in Mexico. If the business of looting should pick up unexpectedly the General could take the sagebrush again with his tattered duds.

The "Shakespeare cocktail" is the latest alcoholic novelty. In sufficient quantity it is guaranteed to bring about much ado about nothing and a comedy of errors.

The Hon. GEORGE HOOVER MOSES, ex-Minister to Greece and Montenegro, who is Senator-elect from New York, and who for President, draws attention to the fact that as a former naval officer Mr. WEEKS is an authority on preparedness. It is singular that the Senator was not asked to become a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs, for he graduated from Annapolis in 1881, served for two years as a midshipman, and commanded a division of the Massachusetts Naval Brigade in the war with Spain. In 1896 Mr. WEEKS was a member of the Board of Visitors of the Naval Academy. What an excellent choice for Secretary of the Navy! He is an authority on preparedness, and an authority on the fact that as a former naval officer Mr. WEEKS is an authority on preparedness. 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